

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

The American Ornithologists' Union held its Seventy-third stated meeting at the Boston Museum of Science on October 25-30, 1955. The first day was devoted to business meetings, the next three days to papers sessions, and the last two days to field trips. The entire slate of present officers was re-elected for one year:

President: Alden H. Miller, University of California

First Vice President: Ludlow Griscom, Harvard University

Second Vice President: Ernst Mayr, Harvard University

Editor of the Auk: Robert W. Storer, University of Michigan

Secretary: Harold F. Mayfield, Toledo, Ohio

Treasurer: Charles G. Sibley, Cornell University

The Brewster Medal was awarded to William H. Phelps, Sr., Caracas, Venezuela, for his fundamental contributions to the systematics of American birds, particularly those of Venezuela.

THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

The following gifts have recently been received. From:

Andrew J. Berger—3 magazines

L. B. Chapman—1 reprint

H. Everest Clements—1 book

Powell Cottrille—1 reprint

Karl Haller—17 books

Philip S. Humphrey—1 book

Leon Kelso—1 reprint

Margaret M. Nice—2 magazines, 28 reprints

Göran Nordström—1 reprint

Fred M. Packard—27 magazines, 6 reprints

William H. Partridge—1 reprint

William H. Phelps—2 reprints

Miles D. Pirnie—1 reprint

Robert W. Storer—2 reprints, 2 magazines

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In the March, 1955, *Wilson Bulletin*, pp. 49 and 54, Henry and Virginia Fitch state that the incubation period of the eggs in a nest of the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) watched by them was eleven days. They knew the dates of the laying of the four eggs, May 29 to June 1, and of the hatching of two of them on the morning of June 12. They found another nestling hatched the morning of June 13. One egg never hatched.

When eggs are not marked and one of them does not hatch it is impossible to be sure of the length of incubation, i.e., the time between the laying of the last egg to its hatching. The authors assumed that the third nestling "probably hatched later" on June 12 and *on this assumption* state that: "Incubation lasted eleven days." It is clear that this conclusion is unwarranted.

MARGARET M. NICE

5725 HARPER AVENUE
CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS